

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
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Channel: n/a

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 IO-13 A-01 USSS-00
ACDA-07 AID-05 MCT-01 DHA-02 /084 W

034761 /62

O 162025Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8250

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(☒) Release (☐) Excise (☐) Deny

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 8179

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, AR

SUBJECT: TERRORIST BOMB IN DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICE KILLS

Exemption(s):
~~Declassify~~: (☐) In Part (☒) In Full ~~DECLASSIFIED~~
(☐) Classify as (☐) Extend as (☐) Downgrade to
DATE KILLS Declassify on Reason

1. A POWERFUL BOMB DEMOLISHED THE CINEMA OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S PLANNING DEPARTMENT IN DOWNTOWN BUENOS AIRES LAST EVENING (DEC. 15), KILLING AT LEAST 14 PERSONS AND INJURING ANOTHER 30. THE BLAST WAS CAUSED BY A CLAYMORE HIGH FRAGMENTATION BOMB. IT OCCURRED DURING A PROGRAM ON DEFENSE AFFAIRS ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARMED FORCES AND OTHER MINISTRIES. THE SURROUNDING STREETS WERE IMMEDIATELY CORDONED OFF AND 20 AMBULANCES ARRIVED TO TRANSPORT THE DEAD AND WOUNDED. A BRIEF OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE RELEASED AT MIDNIGHT DID NOT GIVE THE NUMBERS OR NAMES OF THE DEAD AND WOUNDED, NOR DID IT ATTRIBUTE THE BOMB TO ANY TERRORIST GROUP. (MONTONEROS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BOMBING IN A CALL TO THE ARMY LAST NIGHT. THIS WAS NOT REPORTED IN THE PRESS. ALTHOUGH SOME PRESS REPORTS SAY TWO OF THE DEAD WERE FROM EMBASSIES, THIS IS INCORRECT. THE TWO WERE ARGENTINES OF AMBASSADORIAL RANK FROM FORMINISTRY.) THE BLAST WAS THE SIXTH BOMB EXPLOSION IN TOP SECURITY PREMISES SINCE THE MARCH 24 COUP. ALL APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN INSIDE JOBS. THE MOST RECENT WAS THE NOV. 9 BOMBING OF LA PLATA POLICE HEADQUARTERS, WHICH WAS ATTRIBUTED TO A POLICE CLERK WHO IS STILL AT LARGE.

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SECURITY FORCES NEVER RELRELEASED FURTHER INFORMATION ON WHO WAS

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RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CIRCULO MILITAR BOMBING (THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN SONS OF A RETIRED GENERAL) NOR THE BOMB PLACED IN THE CAMPO DE MAYO REVIEWING STAND ON OCT. 2. THE POLICE SECURITY HEAD-QUARTERS BOMBING JULY 2 WAS UNOFFICIALLY KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY TWO ACTIVE DUTY COMMISSIONED POLICE OFFICERS CONNECTED TO THE MONTONEROS AND THE KILLING OF POLICE CHIEF CARDOZO BY HIS DAUGHTER'S GIRLFRIEND, ANA MARIA GONZALEZ, WHO IS STILL AT LARGE.

2. THE BA HERALD TODAY (DEC. 16) SAID THE BOMBING WAS REMINDER THAT THE COUNTRY IS STILL AT WAR. THE REAL ENEMY IS AS DANGEROUS AS EVER, THE EDITORIAL SAID AND WARNED THAT TOO MUCH ENERGY IS WASTED ON WITCH-HUNTS AIMED AGAINST PRIESTS, JOURNALISTS, TEACHERS AND POLITICIANS. "WHILE WE GO WITCH-HUNTING IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, TERRORISTS PLANT THEIR BOMBS."
HILL

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